

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON  
 Military Economic Development Committee  
 4th Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, November 13th, 2025

**Roll Call**

A present majority of filled member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 12 members present					
Position	Name	Yes	No	Absent	Present
<b>Ex-Officio</b>					
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	x			
Vice Chair, Ex-Officio (Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity)	Joseph McKeown	x			
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Transportation)	VACANT				
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Natural Resources)	Natalie Phelps Finnie			x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of the Environmental Protection Agency)	Chris Hill	x			
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Revenue)	Kristin Logue	x			
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Military Affairs)	Elizabeth Roxworthy	x			
<b>Legislative</b>					
President of the Senate	Sen. Adriane Johnson	x			
Speaker of the House	Rep. Stephanie A. Kifowit			x	
House Minority Leader	Rep. Dan Swanson	x			
Senate Minority Leader	Sen. Craig Wilcox	x			
<b>Public Members</b>					
Pub. Mem.	Kevin Considine			x	
Pub. Mem.	Lamar C. Brown			x	
Pub. Mem.	Scott Lohman			x	
Pub. Mem.	Christine Nappo	x			
Pub. Mem.	Dr. Theresa Ebeler			x	
Pub. Mem.	Sacella Smith	x			
Pub. Mem.	Darryl Thomas			x	
Pub. Mem.	Juan Martinez	x			

Pub. Mem.	Jeffrey Howery	x			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant				
MV/DI Mem.	Kimberly Huth	x			
MV/DI Mem.	Carolyn Zasada	x			
MV/DI Mem.	Col. Timothy Huchel	x			
MV/DI Mem.	Danyelle Foster			x	
<b>Guest (non-member)</b>					
Guest					
Guest					
Guest					
Guest					
Guest					

**Agenda Vote**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Carolyn Zasada**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Adriane Johnson**

**Motion Passes**

**9/23/2025 Minutes**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Juan Martinez**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Joseph McKeown**

**Motion Passes**

**Vote to Adjourn**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Adriane Johnson**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Kimberly Huth**

**Motion Passes**

**Lt. Governor Stratton's Staff Present:**

Lt. Governor Stratton  
Nikki Giancola-Shanks

Eva Shonuga  
Maria Peterson  
Mahi Patel

### Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Approval of the Agenda for 11/13/2025
- III. Approval of the Minutes from 9/23/2025
- IV. Chairperson's Remarks
- V. New Business
  - a. Presentation of 2025 Legislative Summary
  - b. Base Commander Updates
  - c. Committee Updates
- VI. Member Updates
- VII. Public Comments
- VIII. Adjournment

### Summary

The Military Economic Development Council met for its third quarterly meeting of 2025 in Chicago, Springfield, and virtually. Lieutenant Governor Stratton directed Mahi Patel to conduct a roll call to establish a quorum. Quorum was established and the agenda for 11/13/2025 and the minutes from 9/23/2025 were approved.

Mahi and Nikki presented the 2025 Legislative Summary focused on legislative accomplishments regarding Illinois servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Christine Nappo asked if the legislative details will be shared with the council after the meeting.

In the Base Proximate Economic Development Subcommittee update Senator Johnson mentioned that the meeting with Great Lakes Naval Base is delayed but should happen soon, provided the government shutdown ends. She also mentioned that it is important to acknowledge events that work to help veteran's mental health and reduce the suicide rate.

In the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure subcommittee update, Christine Nappo talked about meeting the manufacturers that were recipients of the Governor's Made in Illinois grant fund. She also talked about a county-level grant program open for one more day that is American Rescue Plan Act funded that will be sunseting soon.

Joe McKeown mentioned the regional site selection grant through Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is open.

Nikki Giancola-Shanks mentioned Girls Lead.

Kyle Anderson talked about the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois and specifically mentioned a social effort they are spearheading where community members are able to purchase a token and give to someone else, who will be able to redeem that token for a free hot meal. 32

restaurants around Scott AFB participate in this and a first sergeant oversees this program. They increased the number of tokens significantly during the shutdown.